Research & Development, Telecommunications, Information Technology and environment & Forests. These ministries/departments promote R&D in relevant areas so as to keep ourselves abreast of the lates technological innovations happening all over the globe.

(b) In order to take our technology to match global standards, the Government has launched schemes that promote public-private partnerships and R&D collaborations (nationally as well as internationally), rather than outsourcing of R&D to specialized centres. For example, under the scheme - New Millenium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI), the endeavour is to bring the best private sector partners and publicly funded institutions together to create technologies that provide technology leadership to the country.

(c) The World Investment Report 2005 released by UNCTAD focuses on Trans National Corporations (TNCs) and the Internationalization of R&D. According to the report: TNCs are internationalizing R&D and are now setting up R&D Centres not only in the developed countries but also in the developing countries in sectors such as automobiles, electronics, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals; developing countries are emerging as outward investors and their importance as recipients of FDI in more knowledge intensive activities is increasing; internationalization of R&D opens the door not only for the transfer of technology created elsewhere but also for the technology creation process itself in the host country and enables them to strengthe.i their innovation systems and upgrade industrially and technologically and internationalization has important implications for policy making. The findings of the report appear to be relevant for evolving policy mechanisms directed at attracting R&D related FDI into the country which is expected to help in technological up-gradation.

Subsidy to BSNL

*40. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) receive any subsidies and benefits/discounts in fees and levies which private telecom operators are subject to;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Access Deficit Charges (ADC) is classified as a subsidy being provided only to BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government decided to corporatise the service provision function of Department of Telecommunications. Accordingly Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was set up on 1st October, 2000 by corporatisation of Department of Telecom Services (DTS) and Department of Telecom Operations (DTO). The Government, at that time, decided that a package of measures shall be provided to ensure that the viability of BSNL is not imparied on account of the services provided by BSNL, which are uneconomic but socially desirable, at the behest of the Government.

As per the package approved by the Government from time to time, the Government reimbused 100% licence fee and spectrum charges net of Universal Service levy payable by BSNL from the year 2001-02 to 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 6,900 crore. In the year 2004-05, the Government reimbursed Rs. 1765.68 crore towards 2/3rd of licence fee and spectrum charges payable y BSNL for the year 2004-05 and arrears of License Fee and Sepctrum Charges to be reimbursed to BSNL for the year 2001-02 to 2003-04.

A provision of Rs. 616.17 crore has been made by the Government in RE 2005-06 for reimbursement of 1/3rd of licence fee and spectrum charges during financial year 2005-06. The approved package does not envisage reimbusement of License Fee and Spectrum Charges to BSNL from the year 2006-07 onwards.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Access Deficit Charge (ADC) is payable to all the access service providers providing fixed services where tariffs are below cost, due to regulatory or social reasons. ADC from cellular of WLL (M) or incoming international calls is payable to BSNL.